

reproduction of the formula in the claim, would appear clear and definite, and to reasonably comply 35 U.S.C. 112.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Is earnestly solicited that the rejected claims clearly patentably distinguish over Iimuro et al. under 35 U.S.C. 102, as well as over Iimuro et al. taken with Kane et al. under 35 U.S.C. 103, for the reasons set forth in the preceding arguments. Also, that claim 3 reasonably complies with 35 U.S.C. 112, as discussed above. However, to facilitate prosecution of this application, the following amendments are proposed to claims 1, 7, 8 and 9:

C1 1. (Twice Amended) A polymeric composition for friction elements which comprises a co-polymer between (I) a resin containing phenolic groups and a reticulation agent (II) an organopolysiloxane resin containing terminal silanol group, [at least part of the phenolic groups being bound to the terminal silanol groups] and an epoxy resin or an epoxidised organopolysiloxane (III), and wherein the bonding between the phenolic groups and the terminal silanol groups is substantially complete.

C2 7. (Twice Amended) A process of preparation of a polymeric composition according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

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a) mixing (I) a resin containing the phenolic groups and the reticulation agent, (II) resin containing the terminal silanol groups, and (III) an epoxy resin or the epoxidised organosiloxane,

b) curing the mixture for a period of time sufficient to complete substantially the reaction between the phenolic groups and the terminal silanol groups,

c) post-heating the product obtained under b).

8. (Amended) A process according to claim 7, in which the mixing step a) is conducted at a temperature not exceeding 50°C.

9. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, in which the curing step b) is conducted under a pressure of at least 50 atm. and the temperature is from 80 to 160°C.


CONCLUSION

Applicants respectively submit that the claims, amended as proposed, would meet the requirements of patentability, for the reasons set forth in the above arguments and presented and discussed in the personal interview with Examiner Katarzyna W. Lee on December 12, 2002. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance of claims 14 to 31 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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